



News Release

U.S. Representative Chris Chocola

Second District, Indiana

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Chocola Supports Patriot Act: ‘Effective Tool in the War on Terror’

14 provisions set to expire at year’s end would be made permanent under bill passed yesterday

WASHINGTON – Last evening, the U.S. House of Representatives passed on a bipartisan 257-171 vote the “USA PATRIOT and Terrorism Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2005.” This bill reauthorizes the 2001-passed Patriot Act, which brought U.S. anti-terrorism law up-to-date with today’s terrorist threats. U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola (R-Ind.) supported the bill.

“The provisions of the Patriot Act are a critical tool for our law enforcement and national security professionals to help keep the homeland safe during the War on Terror,” said Chocola. “The Patriot Act has proven effective against terrorists, and its provisions are helping to keep us safe.”

The bill approved by the House will reauthorize the 2001 anti-terrorism law and make permanent 14 of its provisions that are set to expire at the end of 2005. The bill will also place a 10-year sunset on two provisions relating to “roving” wiretaps and searches of business records. The later is commonly called the “library” provision, even though the word “library” does not appear in the original legislation, nor has the authority ever been used to gather information from libraries, bookstores, gun stores, or medical records.

The Patriot Act was originally passed in the wake of the largest terrorist attack on United States soil. It removed major legal barriers that prevented the law enforcement, intelligence, and national defense communities from coordinating their work. It also allowed law enforcement to use surveillance against more terror-related activities, updated the law to reflect new technologies and new threats, and increased penalties for those who commit terrorist crimes and those who harbor terrorists.

“Today’s legislation will continue to enable those fighting the War on Terror here at home to root out and hold responsible those who would do harm to our citizens,” said Chocola. “Now, the FBI, federal prosecutors, and others can continue to go after terrorists with the same tools they have used for decades to successfully fight organized crime and drug dealers. The reauthorization of the Patriot Act is no-nonsense, anti-terror legislation that will help to protect America while respecting civil liberties.”

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